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21 November 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Information Processing Board

SUBJECT : Recommendations of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board

REFERENCE : Memorandum for the DCI fr Henry A. Kissinger dtd 11 November 1969, subject: Information Handling

1. My first quick review of the referent memorandum, the recommendations to the President of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and General Taylor's proposed response causes me to raise the question of whether the proposed response is truly responsive. Mr. Kissinger's memorandum asks for comments on the recommendations and views on how any effective unified information system can be achieved quickly. General Taylor's response offers comments on the recommendations but does not seem to suggest how to quickly achieve an effective unified system. In my opinion the latter objective certainly will not be served by attempting to comply with the recommendations of the Board. The Board seems to be recommending a series of random actions to be dealt with as though a crisis existed without presenting any evidence that there is such a crisis. The recommendations seem to propose actions leading toward the solution of problems which have not even been identified, much less defined in a way which makes it possible to deal with them systematically. The recommendations are based on the presumption that there is a requirement to do something but no one seems to know what that requirement is. The Intelligence Community already has committed significant resources to responding to earlier recommendations

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of the PFIAB in the same fire ~~g~~ fighting mode. It is not surprising if progress is judged to be less than satisfactory. It is extremely difficult to make satisfactory progress toward solving problems which are undefined and may even be to a large extent ~~hypothetical~~ hypothetical. Compliance with these recommendations would force the Community to accelerate its efforts to proceed in a manner which is directly contrary to good systems procedure.

2. The President's ~~new~~ Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board would serve a far more constructive purpose if it would identify the shortcomings and inadequacies its sees in the present intelligence information handling systems which cause it to offer these recommendations. It would also be helpful if the Board included a recommendation that ceiling, positions, and funds be made available to support the effort that will be necessary to even begin any kind of an effort toward the development of a community information handling system.

3. Referring to the supplementary recommendations and the comment about them, it seems to me that our comment about the first of the supplementary recommendations should be much stronger. I have the impression from those people in the Agency who deal with biographic files that the community systems are in much better shape and require far less attention then almost any other information ~~maxim~~ handling system. If this is the case it seems to me there is no harm in saying so.

4. The comment about the third supplementary recommendation might be misleading and could weaken the whole substance of our response. If this comment refers to the Executive Director-Comptroller memorandum<sup>1</sup> of 13 October which established the Information Processing Board I don't believe we can confidently say that it is responsive to the recommendation that each Agency establish a staff function to be concerned with operations research and systems analysis. I don't believe the Information Processing Board in CIA intends to perform this kind of function nor could it assume such a responsibility without the acquisition of additional qualified people.

5. I discussed these papers with the ~~XXXX~~ Deputy Director for Support and gave him the observations I had offered orally to  25X1A Mr. Bannerman called Mr. Bross and discussed the papers and our comments with him. The result is that the DD/S has decided not to take a strong position at this time. Mr. Bross has considered the substance of the comments we offered and will take them into account in further discussions about these papers with Mr. Kissinger and the PFIAB.

6. Copies of the paper have been made ~~xxxxxxxx~~ available to the Directors of Communications and Security for their information.